

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 (withdrawn).

Claim 8 (currently amended). A hydrotropic polymer or copolymer capable of increasing water solubility of a poorly soluble drug, wherein the polymer or copolymer comprises at least one hydrotropic agent monomer unit that includes a hydrophobic moiety selected from the group consisting of nicotinamide, N-substituted nicotinamide, pyridinium, N-substituted pyridinium, benzyl, urea, thiourea, pyridone, pyrimidone, melamine, pyrazine, nicotine, triazine, salicylamide, salicylic acid, and sulfimide.

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (original). The polymer or copolymer of claim 8, which has a block, graft, alternating or random arrangement of monomer units.

Claim 11 (original). The polymer or copolymer of claim 8, which has an acrylate or methacrylate backbone.

Claim 12 (currently amended). The polymer or copolymer of claim 8 and 11, which contains a spacer group between the backbone and said hydrophobic moiety.

Claim 13 (original). The polymer of claim 8, which is a homopolymer of a hydrotropic agent monomer.

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (currently amended). The polymer or copolymer of claim 8, wherein the at least one hydrotropic agent monomer unit is selected from the group consisting of vinyl derivatives of ibuprofen, nicotinamide, salicylic acid, N-picolyl nicotinamide, salicylaldehyde, N,N'-dimethylnicotinamide, and N,N'-diethylnicotinamide, ~~and pyridine~~.

Claim 16 (original). The polymer or copolymer of claim 8, wherein the poorly soluble drug has a solubility in water of less than about 100 µg/ml at 37°C.

Claim 17 (original). The polymer or copolymer of claim 8, wherein the poorly soluble drug is paclitaxel, griseofulvin, progesterone, or tamoxifen.

Claims 18-30 (withdrawn).